

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Savannah Convention Center Restoration Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority, located at One International Drive, Savannah, GA 31402.

The funding would be used for to complete the safety repairs for the riverwalk. The Savannah Convention Center has \$17 million in immediate capital improvement needs to: 1) Phase 1 - Repair the riverwalk (adjacent to slip 3); 2) Phase 2 – Restore the landing and riverwalk completion (adjacent to slip 3); and 3) Phase 3 – Dredging for slip 3.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Savannah Convention Center is one of the primary economic engines of Coastal Georgia and economic opportunity throughout the state. With approximately 160 events per year and attracting more than 200,000 people to Savannah, this state-of-the-art, world-class facility has generated \$1.4 billion in statewide economic impact, contributes \$13.5 million annually in state and local taxes, and supports 28,000 tourism and hospitality jobs in the greater Savannah area.

Since opening for operations in June 2000, the Savannah Convention Center has served as one of our nation's premiere meeting venues for major conferences, trade shows, athletic events, and competitive arts. In 2004, the Savannah Convention Center was selected as the media center for the historic 30th G8 Summit.

In Chatham County, the 2022 economic impact totaled \$213 million and supported 2,650 jobs. In Georgia, the 2022 economic impact totaled \$178.6 million and supported 1,890 jobs.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C 5305(a)(2) for construction and capital improvements of public facilities.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress